Amendment to the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of conducting ~~a~~ an automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application, comprising:

A. making telephonic contact with a respondent;

B. presenting the respondent with at least one introductory speech-generated prompt ~~to reply to~~ requesting an audio response from the respondent;

C. utilizing ~~a~~ an automated, speaker-independent speech recognition algorithm to process the audio ~~responses~~ response given by the respondent and inferring from such audio response the ~~to determine a~~ level of capability of the respondent and whether the respondent understands how to interact with the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application;

D. based on said audio ~~responses~~ response, ~~presenting the respondent with one of~~:

~~at least one prompt associated with an application~~ generating the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application if it is inferred from the audio response that the respondent does understand how to interact with the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application; and

generating an explanation of the operation of said speech recognition application if it is inferred from the audio response that the respondent does not understand how to interact with the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended) A system for conducting ~~a~~ an automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application, comprising:

an automated telephone device for making telephonic contact with a respondent; and

a speech recognition device which, upon said telephonic contact being made, presents the respondent with at least one introductory prompt for the respondent to reply

to; receives a spoken response from the respondent; and performs a speech recognition analysis on said spoken response to determine a capability of the respondent to complete the application and infers from the spoken response whether the respondent understands how to interact with the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application;

wherein, if said speech recognition device, based on said spoken response to said introductory prompt and the inference from the spoken response, determines that the respondent is capable of ~~competing~~ completing said application, said speech recognition device presents ~~at least one~~ the automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application ~~prompt~~ to said respondent; and

wherein, if said speech recognition device, based on said spoken response to said introductory prompt and the inference from the spoken response, determines that the respondent is not capable of completing said application, said speech recognition system presents instructions on completing said application to the respondent.

4. (New) A method of conducting an automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 1, wherein generating an explanation of the operation of said speech recognition application includes generating a training exercise for the respondent.

5. (New) A method of conducting an automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 4, wherein generating a training exercise for the respondent includes prompting the respondent to provide a prescribed response.

6. (New) A method of conducting an automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 5, wherein generating a training exercise for the respondent includes determining whether the respondent provides the prescribed response, and if so, generating the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application.

7. (New) A method of conducting an automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 5, wherein generating a training exercise for the respondent includes determining whether the respondent provides the prescribed response, and if not, generating an end of call stage.

8. (New) A system for conducting an automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 3, wherein if said speech recognition device, based on said spoken response to said introductory prompt and the inference from the spoken response, determines that the respondent is not capable of completing said application, said speech recognition system is configured so as to present instructions on completing said application to the respondent including generating a training exercise for the respondent.

9. (New) A system for conducting an automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 8, wherein the training exercise for the respondent generated by said speech recognition system is configured so as to include a prompt to the respondent to provide a prescribed response.

10. (New) A system for conducting an automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 9, wherein the training exercise for the respondent is configured so as to generate the automated, telephonic, speaker-independent speech recognition application if it is determined that the respondent provides the prescribed response.

11. (New) A system for conducting an automated, telephonic speaker-independent speech recognition application according to claim 9, wherein the training exercise for the respondent is configured to generate an end of call stage if it is determined that the respondent does not provide the prescribed response.